

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHADEGG addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. STUPAK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. HULSHOF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HULSHOF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RUSH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEMINT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MEEHAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MEEHAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, every year it is a solemn moment when we gather on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to remember and commemorate the victims and the survivors of the Armenian genocide, but this year the unspeakable crimes against humanity and genocidal acts perpetrated by the Turkish Ottoman Empire against the Armenian people carry an even more profound reso-

nance. The desperate cries of the Armenian people as their villages were pillaged and burned, as their family members and community leaders were murdered before the eyes of their children, as children were separated from their parents, as they were driven from their homes and forcefully marched into war camps and exiled, as the land worked by Armenian hands for generations was taken by force, the cries of these Armenians are echoed in today's headlines and broadcast from the Balkans.

In 1915, at the start of the systematic and premeditated genocide of the Armenian people by the young Turk government of the Ottoman Empire, there were no television broadcasts from the field to let the world see what was happening. There was no NATO to punish the Turks for their actions against a defenseless civilian population, and there was no resolve on the part of the international community to return Armenians to their homeland.

In the end, 1.5 million people perished at the hands of the Turks between 1915 and 1923, through direct killings, starvation, torture and forced death marches. Another million fled into permanent exile from their ancestral homes. An ancient civilization was expunged from its homeland of 2,500 years.

Mr. Speaker, scarcely 250 days away from the start of the 21st century, we remain a world of generations haunted by the ghosts of the victims of genocide, from the Armenians at the beginning of the century to the ethnic cleansing of Kosovar Albanians.

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In Worcester, Massachusetts, which it is my honor to represent, Mayor Raymond Mariano has designated April 24th as Armenian Martyrs Day, for that is really what we are talking about: A century of martyrs. It is important to remind the current generation and future generation that the seeds of the Holocaust and the seeds of ethnic cleansing were planted by the Turks in their genocide against the Armenian people at the beginning of the 21st century. When Raphael Lemkin coined the word "genocide" in 1944, he cited the 1915 annihilation of the Armenians as an example of genocide.

In Worcester, we are blessed with a number of survivors whose lives not only teach us the lessons of history, but also about the resiliency and dignity of the human spirit. I would like to name but a few of them today:

Marion Der Kazarian, Nevart Kinonian, Sara Sahakian, Almas Boghosian, Sarah Bulbulian, Aghavni Garabedian, Mary Kalashian, John Kasparian, Ovsanna Nordigian, George Ogden, Raffi Samkiranian, Hrnt Yaghmourian and Nouemzar Sarkisian.

Along with all of the other members of the Armenian-American community in Worcester in the Third Congressional District of Massachusetts, they enrich the life of our communities and society.

If there is one lesson of the 20th century, it is that these heinous acts against humanity will continue if we allow ourselves to forget history. We must all commit ourselves to never forget. That is why I am proud to join my colleagues, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), on their bill to officially observe the Armenian Genocide, to have the United States officially recognize this period of history as the Armenian Genocide, and to have the United States press the Turkish government to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide.

Yet, in the shadow of Kosovo, our Nation and other nations still resist acknowledging the Armenian Genocide. Last May, the French National Assembly passed a bill to publicly recognize the Armenian Genocide of 1915. This spring the French Senate and the government of France, under pressure from Turkey, are in a turmoil over whether to approve this legislation. In the United States, we find the government of Turkey attempting to influence our universities, to pretend these acts of genocide against the Armenian people did not happen, and we find U.S. strategic interests in arms sales to Turkey are more influential in setting our foreign policy priorities than acknowledging the truth about acts that took place 84 years ago.

That is because in 84 years, the truth of the Armenian genocide is still powerful and still resonates in current events, and that is why it must be officially acknowledged, why it must be taught in our schools, remembered in our houses of worship and honored in our communities. Now, more than ever, we must recognize, acknowledge, commemorate, mourn and remember the Armenian Genocide. To do less is to doom future generations to repeat and relive these horrors.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) in particular for their leadership on this issue, and I hope that this government will do the right thing.

#### NATIONAL DISCUSSION CALLED FOR CONCERNING CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS FOR VIOLENCE AMONG NATION'S YOUTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, everyone was horrified by these terrible shootings in Littleton, Colorado yesterday. This is one of the worst tragedies that has ever occurred in this Nation. There is nothing worse that can happen to parents than to outlive one of their children, and certainly, the sympathies of all of us go out to the families who lost loved ones in Colorado yesterday.

Many years ago I taught American government and journalism at T.C.